

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5439

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3879

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL ARA
DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, CS

SUBJECT: FACIO'S VIEWS ON BOGOTA MEETING
OF LA FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: STATE 212801

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO DISCUSSED THE
UP-COMING BOGOTA MEETING WITH ME AT SOME
LENGTH THIS MORNING. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS
DECLINED THE INVITATION, GIVING WHAT FACIO
DESCRIBED AS "WEAK EXCUSES": GIBSON ARGUED
THAT THE MEETING WOULD NOT BE FRUITFUL WITHOUT
KISSINGER'S PRESENCE, THAT IT WAS BEING CALLED
ON TOO SHORT NOTICE, AND BESIDE HE HAD PREVIOUS
ENGAGEMENTS. FACIO SAID AS FAR AS HE KNOWS
THAT IS THE ONLY TURN DOWN.

URUGUAY HAD ALSO ARGUED THAT THE MEETING
SHOULD NOT BE HELD BECAUSE KISSINGER COULD
NOT COME, WHICH FACIO INTERPRETED AS REFLECT-
ING BRAZILIAN PRESSURE, BUT URUGUAY HAS NOT
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YET DECLINED AS FAR AS HE KNEW. FACIO SAID

HE SINCERELY REGRETTED BRAZIL'S ABSENCE, BUT THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ANYWAY.

B. IN THE HOPES OF CORRECTING APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS CREEPING INTO THE PRESS, FACIO WAS GOING TO EXPLAIN TO THE PRESS IREFULLY WHAT THE ORIGINAL IDEA WAS AND THAT IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD ATTEND.

C. HE WAS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE NEED TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION OR COMING UP WITH A BILL OF PARTICULARS. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE GOING TO WORK VERY HARD TO MAKE THIS A FRUITFUL BEGINNING OF A DIALOGUE. WHAT HE HAD IN MIND, HE SAID, WAS A DISCUSSION OF GENERAL THEMES TO BE TAKEN UP WITH THE SECRETARY. SPECIFICALLY HE INTENDED TO PROPOSE CONSIDERATION OF HOW LATIN AMERICA COULD RELATE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE UNITED STATES; WHAT WAS NEEDED TO CONSOLIDATE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP; AND WHAT LATIN AMERICAN RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS, AS WELL AS BENEFITS, SHOULD BE TO SECURE A NEW RELATIONSHIP. AMONG OTHER THINGS HE SAID, LATIN AMERICANS MIGHT WELL DISCUSS HOW THEY COULD SUPPORT US EFFORTS TO SECURE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN THE WORLD. FACIO SAID HE HAD OPPOSED PROPOSALS FOR A PRIOR MEETING OF "EXPERTS" BECAUSE THAT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO TECHNICAL QUIBBLING ABOUT TRADE, DEVELOPMENT, TREATIES, ETC. WHAT WAS NEEDED NOW WAS A MUCH DIFFERENT KIND OF FOCUS, NAMELY ONE CONSIDERING CONCEPTS AND PREMISES TO BE EXPLORED LATER. (I ENCOURAGED HIM ALONG THIS LINE.)

D. EVERYONE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE DEMANDS ON THE SECRETARY RESULTING FROM THE MIDDLE EASTERN CRISIS AND THE DELAYS THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT. HE WOULD BE FRANKLY SURPRISED IF THE SECRETARY FOUND HIMSELF ABLE TO MEET

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WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS MUCH BEFORE MARCH OF NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, FACIO SAID, IT WAS THE LINKAGE OF THESE MEETINGS WITH PERSONAL DIALOGUE WITH THE SECRETARY THAT WAS ESSENTIAL. IF AFTER BOGOTA IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH KISSINGER, NO OTHER MEETING SHOULD BE HELD. NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SECRETARY WOULD SERVE,

BECAUSE IT WAS THE PERSONAL CONFIDENCE AND
RELATIONSHIP THAT KISSINGER HAD AROUSED
WHICH PROMISED SOMETHING NEW AND FRUITFUL.
IT WAS DIALOGUE WITH HIM THEY WANTED.

E. HE IS PLANNING TO INVITE THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS OF CENTRAL AMERICA, AND POSSIBLY
PANAMA, TO MEET IN SAN JOSE, NOVEMBER 12.
FACIO DESCRIBED THIS AS AN EFFORT TO EXPLAIN
PERSONALLY THE CONCEPT BEHIND THE BOGOTA
MEETING AND HIS IDEAS AS SUMMARIZED IN
C ABOVE. THEY WOULD DEPART NOVEMBER 13 FOR
BOGOTA.

F. FACIO SAID HE IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO
PROCEEDING WITH THE LIMA MEETING OF THE OAS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE. HE THINKS INSTEAD THAT
THE OAS COMMITTEE PROCESS MIGHT BEST BE DELAYED
OR SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY EARLY NEXT YEAR.
VAKY

NOTE BY OCT: SAN JOSE 3879 NOT PASSED ABOVE.

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